

From: Zach Kaplan
To: Microsoft ATR
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Renata B. Hesse -

I am writing to voice my comments about the settlement between the United States and Microsoft. Microsoft should be praised instead of punished for its business practices. They're fierce competition has brought me amazing innovations in the field of information technology. I use Microsoft products every single day.

As I graduated from College I started a company that build custom software. We were able to utilize tools Microsoft provides for developers in our products. With a very small development team we were able to create software used by small businesses and fortune 500 companies. We were recently bought out and plan to start a new company.

Each day I use Microsoft Word, Internet Explorer, Windows, and other Microsoft tools I am reminded of the thousands of people that devoted countless hours of their lives to create this value that has changed the world for the better.

I resent the government's characterization of me as a helpless victim who cannot choose software that is useful to you. I do choose to use different software vendors. Macromedia's web development tools are better than Microsoft's so our company chose to purchase them instead. I do not think that the government has any right to decide what software I use in my computer.

I also resent the idea that a successful business and its products are a threat to anyone. We worked very hard on our business to create value we could trade with others. Although our company was much smaller our customers still chose to purchase our products.

Also I have read that this whole issue with Microsoft originated with one of Microsoft's unsuccessful competitors. If our competitors were allowed to set the rules for the markets in which we provided more value than them it would be an injustice.

I studied abroad a few years ago and expereinced first hand that in other countries when politicians protect some businesses from others is a dangerous policy, leading to corruption and economic disaster. I felt proud to be an American when I witnessed this activity. I hope you will protect our liberties from this kind of activity.

Looking foward I wish to see an America where success is not throttled but embraced. I want a free America where anyone that chooses to think rationally and work hard can create and trade value with others. This is truly the American dream.

I feel very strongly that Microsoft has a right to the intellectual property it created with its employees hard work. It is our great government's job is to protect this right, not to take it away.

Thank you for reading my comments,

Zach Kaplan

